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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/531,702

04/18/2005

Naoki Mitsue

Q87339

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23373

7590

10/23/2006

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20037

EXAMINER

FOOTLAND, LENARD A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3682

DATE MAILED: 10/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/531,702

Applicant(s)

MITSUE ET AL.

Examiner

Lenard A. Footland

Art Unit

3682

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

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Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

Group I: Claims 1-3, 7, , 9, drawn to a bearing, classified in Class 384, subclass 448.

Group II: Claims 4-6, 8, drawn to a process of making a bearing, classified in Class 29, subclass 898+.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions II and I are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make an other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (M.P.E.P. § 806.05(f)). In the instant case the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process, for example, a process wherein no rotating takes place.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

THE FOLLOWING SPECIES RESTRICTION IS ALSO REQUIRED:

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: the species of

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Figure(s) 1-4 versus that of Fig(s). 5-7 versus Fig(s). 8-9 v Fig(s). 10 v 11 v 12 v 13-14 v 15 v 16 v 17-18 v 19 v 20.

The species are independent or distinct because they contain mutually exclusive features.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

Applicant is advised that a response to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, AND A LISTING OF **ALL** CLAIMS READABLE THEREON (**NOT**, FOR EXAMPLE, "AT LEAST CLAIMS..."), INCLUDING **ANY CLAIMS SUBSEQUENTLY ADDED**, AND IF THE AMENDMENT OF ANY CLAIMS RESULTS IN A CHANGE OF THE SPECIES THEY READ UPON, THAT TOO SHOULD BE INDICATED. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN A HOLDING OF NONRESPONSIVENESS. (Note that any "schematically" illustrated elected species may not schematically represent plural embodiments varying claimed features so as to defeat restriction, unless clarified by drawing corrections, to be responsive. If those details are illustrated in other figure[s], that other figure[s] should be identified and, if there are plural embodiments, each such embodiment should be considered a separate species, and if the "schematic" figure is desired to be prosecuted, an election of one embodiment as the elected species should be made.) An argument

that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.¹

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. M.P.E.P. § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 of the other invention.

The elected species is limited to the features set forth in the elected figures, and does not include features not illustrated in those figures, or illustrated in other figures. Accordingly, applicant should review all claims to ensure that all features of the elected species are properly illustrated, as required, in order to avoid a holding that an unillustrated feature does not form part of the elected species.

¹ Applicants may wish to consider listing claims readable with care in view of the possible consequences of having to later cancel them.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lenard A. Footland, whose telephone number is (571) 272-7103.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lenard A. Footland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lenard" being more prominent and the last name "Footland" following in a similar style.

Lenard A. Footland

Primary Examiner

Technology Center 3600

Art Unit 3682

laf

October 17, 2006